

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Measures Introduced: 39 public bills, H.R. 2516–2553; 1 private bill, H.R. 2554; and 11 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 223–225, and H. Res. 284–291, were introduced. **Pages H5661–63**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H5663–65**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 1276, to provide downpayment assistance under the HOME Investment Partnerships Act, amended (H. Rept. 108–164);

H.R. 1614, to reauthorize the HOPE VI program for revitalization of severely distressed public housing and to provide financial assistance under such program for main street revitalization or redevelopment projects in smaller communities to support the development of affordable housing for low-income families in connection with such projects, amended (H. Rept. 108–165);

H.R. 272, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain land to Lander County, Nevada, and the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land to Eureka County, Nevada, for continued use as cemeteries, amended (H. Rept. 108–166); and

H.R. 2086, to reauthorize the Office of National Drug Control Policy, amended (H. Rept. 108–167 Part 1). **Pages H5660–61**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest Chaplain, Rev. Bob Warren, Pastor, Arlington Heights Evangelical Free Church of Arlington Heights, Illinois. **Page H5553**

Taxpayer Protection and IRS Accountability Act: The House passed H.R. 1528, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to protect taxpayers and ensure accountability of the Internal Revenue Service by recorded vote of 252 ayes to 170 noes, Roll No. 293. The House also considered the bill on June 18. **Pages H5562–97**

Rejected the Visclosky of Indiana motion that sought to recommit the bill to the Committee on Ways and Means with instructions to report it back to the House forthwith with amendments that strike section 309, Health Insurance Costs of Eligible Individuals and insert the Health Care Tax Credit Enhancement section that decreases the age eligibility requirement, repeals the 3-month requirement of existing coverage; and revises the eligibility of spouses of individuals entitled to Medicare by recorded vote of 199 ayes to 226 noes, Roll No. 292. **Pages H5595–97**

Rejected the McDermott amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in part B of H. Rept. 108–159 that sought to delete the Health Insurance Tax Credit Waiver; expand Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for children; provide relief to families of astronauts and military members; limit EITC precertification program; address corporate tax shelters; and add protections to assist low and middle income tax payers by ye-a-and-nay vote of 196 yeas to 226 nays, Roll No. 291. **Pages H5563–95**

H. Res. 282, the rule that provided for consideration of the bill was agreed to on June 18.

Small Business Health Fairness Act: The House passed H.R. 660, to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to improve access and choice for entrepreneurs with small businesses with respect to medical care for their employees by recorded vote of 262 ayes to 162 noes, Roll No. 296. **Pages H5597–H5638**

Rejected the McCarthy of New York motion that sought to recommit the bill to the Committee on Education and the Workforce with instructions to report it back to the House forthwith with an amendment that protects existing group health plan coverage for breast cancer screening, pregnancy and childbirth, well child care, and direct access to obstetric or gynecological services by recorded vote of 192 ayes to 230 noes, Roll No. 295. **Pages H5636–37**

Pursuant to the rule the amendment recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce now printed in the bill (H. Rept. 108–156) was considered as adopted. **Page H5605**

Rejected the Kind amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in H. Rept. 108–160 that sought to establish the Small Employer Health Benefits Plan, similar to the Federal employees Health Benefits Plan, provide premium assistance to businesses and employees, require the Department of Labor to annually contract with state licensed health insurers to offer health insurance coverage in a state, and require all participating insurers to offer benefits equivalent to or greater than the options offered to Federal employees by ye-a-and-nay vote of 183 yeas to 238 nays with 1 voting “present”, Roll No. 294. **Pages H5624–36**

H. Res. 283, the rule that provided for consideration of the bill was agreed to by recorded vote of 224 ayes to 199 noes, Roll No. 290. Earlier agreed to order the previous question by ye-a-and-nay vote of 224 yeas to 198 nays, Roll No. 289. **Pages H5555–62**

Late Report: The Committee on Appropriations received permission to have until midnight on Monday, June 23 to file a privileged report making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004.

Page H5638

Strengthen AmeriCorps Program Act: The House passed S. 1276, to improve the manner in which the Corporation for National and Community Service approves, and records obligations relating to, national service positions—clearing the measure for the President.

Pages H5638–39

Legislative Program: The Majority Leader announced the Legislative Program for the week of June 23.

Pages H5639–42

Meeting Hour—Monday, June 23: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, June 23 for morning-hour debate.

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Calendar Wednesday: Agreed to dispense with the Calendar Wednesday business of Wednesday, June 25.

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Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Putnam wherein he announced his resignation from the Committee on Resources.

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Committee Election: The House agreed to H. Res. 284 electing Representative Neugebauer to the Committees on Agriculture, Resources, and Science and Representative McCotter to the Committee on Small Business.

Page H5643

Honoring the Celebration of Lou Gehrig's 100th Birthday and his Legacy in the Search for a Cure for ALS: H. Res. 278, recognizing the contributions Lou Gehrig and his legacy have made in the fight against Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis.

Pages H5643–44

Congratulating the San Antonio Spurs on Winning the NBA Championship: H. Res. 279, Congratulating the San Antonio Spurs for winning the 2003 NBA Championship.

Pages H5644–46

Senate Messages: Message received from the Senate appears on page H5553.

Referral: S. 1276 was held at the desk.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes and five recorded votes developed during the proceedings of the House today and appear on pages H5560–61, H5561–62, H5594–95, H5596–97, H5597, H5635–36, H5637, and H5637–38. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Committee Meetings

REVIEW—COMMODITY FUTURES MODERNIZATION ACT

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management held a hearing to review of the Commodity Futures Modernization Act. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative approved for full Committee action the Legislative appropriations for fiscal year 2004.

LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies approved for full Committee action the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations for fiscal year 2004.

SCHOOL READINESS ACT

Committee on Education and Workforce: Ordered reported, as amended, H.R. 2210, School Readiness Act.

HIGHER EDUCATION-INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS QUESTIONS OF BIAS

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Subcommittee on Select Education held a hearing on "International Programs in Higher Education and Questions of Bias." Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG AND MODERNIZATION ACT; SOCIAL SECURITY ACT AMENDMENTS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Ordered reported the following bills: H.R. 2743, as amended, Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act, and H.R. 531, to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to extend the availability of allotments for fiscal years 1998–2001, under the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

NEW BASEL ACCORD—UNIFIED U.S. POSITION SEARCH

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit held a hearing entitled "The New Basel Accord—In Search of a Unified U.S. Position." Testimony was heard from Roger Ferguson, Vice-Chairman, Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System; the following officials of the Department of the Treasury: James E. Gilleran, Director, Office of Thrift Supervision; and